

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX**

ALEXIS VEGA,

Plaintiff

Index No. _____

Purchased _____

-against-

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK, P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON
OF NBBX, SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S
PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND
ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09
S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES
MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945**

Defendants

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

ALEXIS VEGA, by his attorneys, PAPA, DEPAOLA AND BROUNSTEIN

respectfully alleges as follows:

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

1. At all times mentioned, Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA** was a resident of Bronx County, City and State of New York.
2. At all times mentioned, Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK**, was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
3. On or about the 16th day of December, 2009 and within ninety (90) days after the claim herein arose, the Plaintiff served a Notice of Claim in writing sworn to on their behalf upon the Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK**, by delivering a copy thereof in duplicate to the officer designated to receive such process personally, which Notice of Claim advised the Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK**, of the nature, place, time and manner in which the claim arose, the items of damage and injuries sustained so far as was then

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BRONX COUNTY

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determinable. One Notice of Claim was for his arrest, assault, battery, malicious prosecution, etc. for his arrest of August 4, 2009 and the other Notice of Claim for his arrest on October 30, 2009.

4. At least thirty (30) days have elapsed since the service of the claim prior to the commencement of this action and adjustment of payment thereof has been neglected or refused, and this action has been commenced within one year and ninety (90) days after the happening of the event upon which the claims are based.
5. The plaintiff has complied with the requests of the municipal defendants for an oral examination pursuant to Section 50-H of the General Municipal Law and/or the Public Authority Law and/or no such request was made within the applicable period.
6. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned, Defendants **P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945** were and are police officers of the Defendant City of New York, and at all times herein were acting in such capacity as the agents, servants and employees of the Defendant, **THE CITY OF NEW YORK**.
7. On or about August 4, 2009 at approximately 12:15 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue and East 178th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York the Defendants jointly and severally in their capacity as police officers, wrongfully touched, grabbed, handcuffed and seized the Plaintiff **ALEXIS**

VEGA. At no time did the Defendants have legal cause to grab, handcuff seize or touch the Plaintiff, nor did the Plaintiff consent to this illegal touching nor was it privileged by law.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

8. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "7" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
9. Upon information and belief, at all times mentioned, Defendants **P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945** were and are police officers of the Defendant City of New York, and at all times herein were acting in such capacity as the agents, servants and employees of the Defendant, **THE CITY OF NEW YORK.**
10. On or about October 30, 2009, at approximately 1:00 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue between 180th and 179th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York, the Defendants jointly and severally in their capacity as police officers, wrongfully touched, grabbed, handcuffed and seized the Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA.** At no time did the Defendants have legal cause to grab, handcuff seize or touch the Plaintiff, nor did the Plaintiff consent to this illegal touching nor was it privileged by law.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

11. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "10" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
12. On or about August 4, 2009 at approximately 12:15 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue and East 178th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York the Defendants, jointly and severally did place Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA** in imminent fear of physical contact by approaching the Plaintiff with their loaded firearms, outstretched limbs and other objects which they used to physically seize, strike and restrain the Plaintiff. All of the above actions placed the Plaintiff in imminent fear of physical contact. At no time did the Plaintiff consent to the unlawful actions of the Defendants.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

13. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "12" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
14. On or about October 30, 2009, at approximately 1:00 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue between 180th and 179th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York, the Defendants, jointly and severally did place Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA** in imminent fear of physical contact by approaching the Plaintiff with their loaded firearms, outstretched limbs and other objects which they used to physically seize, strike and restrain the Plaintiff. All of the above actions placed the Plaintiff in imminent fear of physical contact. At no time did the Plaintiff consent to the unlawful actions of the Defendants.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

15. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "14" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
16. On or about August 4, 2009 at approximately 12:15 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue and East 178th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York the Defendants, jointly and severally without any warrant, order or other legal process and without any legal right, wrongfully and unlawfully arrested the Plaintiff, restrained him and his liberty and then took him into custody to a police station in the County of the Bronx and there charged him with the crimes on Docket No. 2009BX050086. The Plaintiff was thereafter held in custody over the course of three days before he was released on his own recognizance. The Defendants intentionally confined the Plaintiff without his consent and the confinement was not otherwise privileged by law and, at all times, the Plaintiff was conscious of his confinement.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

17. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "16" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
18. On or about October 30, 2009, at approximately 1:00 PM in the vicinity of Marion Avenue between 180th and 179th Street, County of the Bronx, State of New York the Defendants, jointly and severally without any warrant, order or other legal process and without any legal right, wrongfully and unlawfully arrested the Plaintiff, restrained him and his liberty and then

took him into custody to a police station in the County of the Bronx and there charged him with the crimes. The Plaintiff was thereafter held in custody over the course of approximately 7 days before he was released. The Defendants intentionally confined the Plaintiff without his consent and the confinement was not otherwise privileged by law and, at all times, the Plaintiff was conscious of his confinement.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

19. Plaintiff incorporates, repeats, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "18" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
20. Upon information and belief, on or about August 4, 2009 and from that time until the dismissal of charges on or about October 7, 2009 by the Honorable Judge Robert Seewald presiding at, Bronx Supreme Court, Defendants P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945 deliberately and maliciously prosecuted Plaintiff ALEXIS VEGA, an innocent man without any probable cause whatsoever, by filing or causing a felony complaint to be filed in the Criminal Court of the City of New York, Bronx County, for the purpose of falsely accusing the plaintiff of violations of the criminal laws of the State of New York.
21. The Defendants jointly and severally, their agents, servants or employees failed to take reasonable steps to stop the prosecution of the Plaintiff and

instead maliciously and deliberately provided false and/or incomplete information to the District Attorney's office to induce prosecution of the Plaintiff.

22. The commencement of these criminal proceedings under Docket No. 2009BX050086 was malicious and began in malice and without probable cause, so that the proceedings could succeed by the Defendants.
23. As a result of the malicious prosecution, Plaintiff was deprived of his liberty and suffered the humiliation, mental anguish, indignity and frustration of an unjust criminal prosecution. The Plaintiff made multiple court appearance to defend his liberty against these unjust charges.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

24. Plaintiff incorporates, repeats, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "23" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
25. Upon information and belief, on or about October 30, 2009 and from that time until the dismissal of charges on or about November 5, 2009 by the Honorable Judge Edward Davidowitz presiding at, Bronx Supreme Court, Defendants **P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945** deliberately and maliciously prosecuted Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA**, an innocent man without any probable cause whatsoever, by filing or causing a felony complaint to be filed in the Criminal Court of the City of

New York, Bronx County, for the purpose of falsely accusing the plaintiff of violations of the criminal laws of the State of New York.

26. The Defendants jointly and severally, their agents, servants or employees failed to take reasonable steps to stop the prosecution of the Plaintiff and instead maliciously and deliberately provided false and/or incomplete information to the District Attorney's office to induce prosecution of the Plaintiff.
27. The commencement of these criminal proceedings on Docket #2009BX069723 was malicious and began in malice and without probable cause, so that the proceedings could succeed by the Defendants.
28. As a result of the malicious prosecution, Plaintiff was deprived of his liberty and suffered the humiliation, mental anguish, indignity and frustration of an unjust criminal prosecution. The Plaintiff made multiple court appearance to defend his liberty against these unjust charges.

AS AND FOR A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

29. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in paragraphs "1" through "28" as it set forth at length herein.
30. Defendants P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945 were at all times relevant, duly appointed and acting officers of the City of New York Police Department.

31. At all times mentioned herein, said police officer was acting under color of law, to wit: the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies and customs and usage of the State of New York and/or City of New York.
32. Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA** is and at all times relevant herein, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Bronx County in the State of New York and brings this cause of action pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1983 and 42 United States Code, Section 1988.
33. The Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK** is a municipality duly incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.
34. On or about August 4, 2009 the Defendants, armed police, while effectuating the seizure of the Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA**, did search, seize, assault and commit a battery and grab the person of the Plaintiff without a court authorized arrest or search warrant. They did physically seize the person of the Plaintiff during the arrest process in an unlawful and excessive manner. The Plaintiff was falsely arrested and maliciously prosecuted without the Defendants possessing probable cause to do so and did without reasonable suspicion or probable cause that the plaintiff had secreted contraband in or on his person and did strip search him with a cavity inspection.
35. The above action of the Defendants resulted in the Plaintiff being deprived of the following rights under the United States Constitution:
 - a. Freedom from assault to his person;
 - b. Freedom from battery to his person;
 - c. Freedom from illegal search and seizure;

- d. Freedom from false arrest;
 - e. Freedom from malicious prosecution;
 - f. Freedom from the use of excessive force during the arrest process.
36. The Defendants subjected the Plaintiff to such deprivations, either in a malicious or reckless disregard of the Plaintiff's rights or with deliberate indifference to those rights used the fourth and fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution.
37. The direct and proximate result of the Defendants' acts are that the Plaintiff has suffered severe and permanent injuries of a psychological nature. He was forced to endure pain and suffering, all to his detriment.

AS AND FOR A TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

38. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in paragraphs "1" through "37" as it set forth at length herein.
39. Defendants **THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945** were at all times relevant, duly appointed and acting officers of the City of New York Police Department.
40. At all times mentioned herein, said police officer was acting under color of law, to wit: the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies and customs and usage of the State of New York and/or City of New York.
41. Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA** is and at all times relevant herein, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Bronx County in the State of New York and brings this cause of action pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1983 and 42 United States Code, Section 1988.

42. The Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK** is a municipality duly incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.
43. On or about October 30, 2009 the Defendants, armed police, while effectuating the seizure of the Plaintiff **ALEXIS VEGA**, did search, seize, assault and commit a battery and grab the person of the Plaintiff without a court authorized arrest or search warrant. They did physically seize the person of the Plaintiff during the arrest process in an unlawful and excessive manner. The Plaintiff was falsely arrested and maliciously prosecuted without the Defendants possessing probable cause to do so and did without reasonable suspicion or probable cause that the plaintiff had secreted contraband in or on his person and did strip search him with a cavity inspection.
44. The above action of the Defendants resulted in the Plaintiff being deprived of the following rights under the United States Constitution:
 - a. Freedom from assault to his person;
 - b. Freedom from battery to his person;
 - c. Freedom from illegal search and seizure;
 - d. Freedom from false arrest;
 - e. Freedom from malicious prosecution;
 - f. Freedom from the use of excessive force during the arrest process.
45. The Defendants subjected the Plaintiff to such deprivations, either in a malicious or reckless disregard of the Plaintiff's rights or with deliberate indifference to those rights used the fourth and fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution.

46. The direct and proximate result of the Defendants' acts are that the Plaintiff has suffered severe and permanent injuries of a psychological nature. He was forced to endure pain and suffering, all to his detriment.

AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

47. Plaintiff incorporates, repeats and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "46" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
48. Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK** has grossly failed to train and adequately supervise its police officers in the fundamental law of arrest, search and seizure on August 4, 2009 especially when its police officers are not in possession of a court authorized arrest warrant and where an individual, especially as here, has not committed a crime and has not resisted arrest, that its police officers should only use reasonable force to effectuate an arrest and the arrest should be based on probable cause.
49. The City of New York was negligent by failing to implement a policy with its Police Department and instruct police officers who, absent the consent of the Plaintiff (or similarly situated individuals) or without the possession of a court authorized arrest a search warrant, said police officers of the City of New York are not to arrest individuals such as the Plaintiff here where probable cause is lacking and the use of force should only be reasonable when an individual resists arrest and should not be used where a criminal defendant is not resisting arrest.
50. **THE CITY OF NEW YORK** is negligent due to its failure to implement a policy with its Police Department or actively enforce the law, if any of the following are lacking:

1. Probable cause must be present before an individual such as the Plaintiff herein can be arrested.
 2. Force cannot be used against an individual who does not physically resist arrest.
 3. An individual similarly situated as the plaintiff herein cannot be subjected to strip searches with cavity inspections unless the police possess probable cause or reasonable suspicion that the plaintiff has secreted contraband in or on his person.
51. The foregoing acts, omissions and systemic failures are customs and policies of the **CITY OF NEW YORK** which caused the police officers to falsely arrest, maliciously prosecute, seize illegally and search the Plaintiff commit an assault/battery to his person and denied him prompt medical attention under the belief that they would suffer no disciplinary actions for their failure to take proper or prudent steps in this case.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

52. Plaintiff incorporates, repeats and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "51" with full force and effect as though set forth at length herein.
53. Defendant **CITY OF NEW YORK** has grossly failed to train and adequately supervise its police officers in the fundamental law of arrest, search and seizure on October 30, 2009 especially when its police officers are not in possession of a court authorized arrest warrant and where an individual, especially as here, has not committed a crime and has not resisted arrest, that its police officers should only use reasonable force to effectuate an

arrest and the arrest should be based on probable cause.

54. The City of New York was negligent by failing to implement a policy with its Police Department and instruct police officers who, absent the consent of the Plaintiff (or similarly situated individuals) or without the possession of a court authorized arrest a search warrant, said police officers of the City of New York are not to arrest individuals such as the Plaintiff here where probable cause is lacking and the use of force should only be reasonable when an individual resists arrest and should not be used where a criminal defendant is not resisting arrest.
55. **THE CITY OF NEW YORK** is negligent due to its failure to implement a policy with its Police Department or actively enforce the law, if any of the following are lacking:
 1. Probable cause must be present before an individual such as the Plaintiff herein can be arrested.
 2. Force cannot be used against an individual who does not physically resist arrest.
 3. An individual similarly situated as the plaintiff herein cannot be subjected to strip searches with cavity inspections unless the police possess probable cause or reasonable suspicion that the plaintiff has secreted contraband in or on his person.
56. The foregoing acts, omissions and systemic failures are customs and policies of the **CITY OF NEW YORK** which caused the police officers to falsely arrest, maliciously prosecute, seize illegally and search the Plaintiff commit an assault/battery to his person and denied him prompt medical attention

under the belief that they would suffer no disciplinary actions for their failure to take proper or prudent steps in this case.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

57. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in paragraphs "1" through "56" as it set forth at length herein.
58. Defendant City of New York was negligent in that prior to and at the time of the acts complained of herein, due to the prior history of the Police Officer Defendants, knew or should have known of the bad disposition of said Defendants on and before August 4, 2009 or had knowledge of facts that would put a reasonably prudent employer on inquiry concerning their bad disposition and the fact that these officers were not suitable to be hired and employed by the CITY OF NEW YORK and that due to their lack of training, these officers should have had adequate supervision so that they would not arrest innocent individuals nor use excessive force during the arrest process.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

59. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and re-alleges all of the allegations contained in paragraphs "1" through "58" as it set forth at length herein.
60. Defendant City of New York was negligent in that prior to and at the time of the acts complained of herein, due to the prior history of the Police Officer Defendants, knew or should have known of the bad disposition of said Defendants on and before October 30, 2009 or had knowledge of facts that would put a reasonably prudent employer on inquiry concerning their bad disposition and the fact that these officers were not suitable to be hired and employed by the CITY OF NEW YORK and that due to their lack of training,

these officers should have had adequate supervision so that they would not arrest innocent individuals nor use excessive force during the arrest process.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, together with the costs and disbursements of this action in the amount of damages greater than the jurisdictional limit of any lower court where otherwise have jurisdiction, together with attorneys' fees and costs for bringing this case and punitive damages.

Dated: Bayside, New York
May 13, 2010

Yours, etc.

PAPA, DEPAOLA AND BROUNSTEIN


BY: JOHN R. DEPAOLA

Attorneys for Plaintiff

42-40 Bell Boulevard Suite 500

Bayside, New York 11361

(718) 281-4000

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX**

-----X
ALEXIS VEGA,

Plaintiff

-against-

Index No.
Purchased:

VERIFICATION

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK, P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON
OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O. O'HANLON'S
PARTNER ON 8-4-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE I AND
ON 10-30-09 THE TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09
S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES
MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945,**

Defendants

-----X

I, **JOHN R. DEPAOLA**, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, state that I am a member of the firm of **PAPA, DEPAOLA AND BROUNSTEIN**, the attorneys of record for Plaintiffs in the within action; I have read the foregoing and know the contents thereof; the same is true to my own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe it to be true. The reason this verification is made by me and not by Plaintiff is because Plaintiff resides outside the county where deponent maintains his office.

I affirm that the foregoing statements are true, under the penalties of perjury.

Dated: Bayside, New York
May 13, 2010



JOHN R. DEPAOLA

Index No. :

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX

ALEXIS VEGA,

Plaintiff

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, P.O. BRIAN O'HANLON OF NBBX , SHIELD #10952, P.O.
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TACTICAL TEAM SGT. ON 10-30-09 S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE II AND DET. MOISES
MARTINEZ S/H/A JOHN/JANE DOE III, SHIELD #1945

Defendants

SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT

PAPA DEPAOLA AND BROUNSTEIN
BY: JOHN R. DEPAOLA
Attorney for Plaintiffs
42-40 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, NY 11361
Tel. (718) 281-4000

To: CORPORATION COUNSEL OF NEW YORK CITY

Attorney(s) for Defendants

Service of a copy of the within is hereby admitted.

Dated

Attorney(s) for